

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-6 currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are herein amended.

The matter described in Paragraph 5 of the Official Letter is believed to have been addressed to.

Regarding the matter of Paragraph 6 of the Official Letter, claim 1 is herein amended such that a program to be processed is now said to stored in the program memory (while claim 1 originally stated merely that the program memory serves to store a program to be processed. Moreover, function block instances are already described as being contained in the program to be processed. Thus, the objection by the Examiner regarding claim 1 is believed to have been obviated.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to claim 6, claim 6 has been largely and generally rewritten in part in response to the rejection in Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Official Letter. As to the referral to the program in the preamble part of claim 6, it is to be noted that statements in the preamble part of a claim are generally interpreted as broadly characterizing the scope of the claim. When "a program" is mentioned with reference to the first program portion, this now represents a particular program which is intended to be referenced later and is indeed referenced later in the same claim. Thus, there should be no confusion as to what program is being considered whenever the expression "program" is encountered.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory matter. Claim 6 has therefore been rewritten so as to be now directed to a computer-readable recording medium, very much like the subject matter of Sojoodi, cited by the Examiner. The rejected on the ground of non-statutory subject matter is therefore believed to be obviated.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Sojoodi. Sojoodi relates to tools for graphically programming an ordinary computer program and discloses the programming process of the present invention while creating "block instances" from "block definitions" (to use the language of the present application). The present invention is different from what is disclosed by Sojoodi in that block definitions and block instances are created hierarchically and hence their structural trees can be displayed and that a structural tree of block definitions and a structural tree of block instances can be display simultaneously on the same screen. According to Sojoodi, by contrast, objects corresponding to the block instances of the present invention are used to display the program being created,

as shown for example in Figs. 6 and 14-17. In summary, the present invention and Sojoodi are different in terms of the manner of display. In order to emphasize this difference, independent claims 1 and 5 have been herein amended by including adverb "simultaneously" to more narrowly characterize the manner of display according to the present invention now being claimed. This characteristic is not disclosed or even hinted at by Sojoodi and hence these claims are now believed to be allowable.

Claim 6 has been amended further such that the program as so-called product and the program to be created by the user are clearly distinguishable.

In summary, it is believed that the present Amendment is totally responsive to the Office Action and hence that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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